The Field Museum

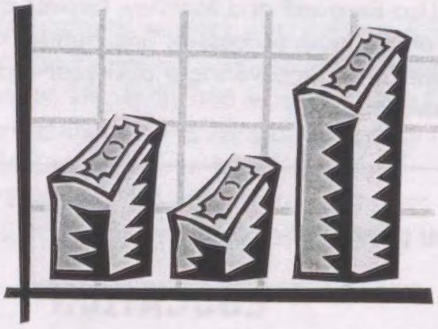
Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
February 25, 2000

Admission increase to take effect March 1

Beginning on March 1, the cost of basic admission for adults visiting The Field Museum will increase by $1, bringing the fee from $7 to $8. The cost of basic admission for children, students, and seniors will not be affected.

The Field Museum has a rich history of serving Chicagoans and Chicago's extraordinary tourist market. Just over 1.5 million people visited the Field in 1999. Because we waive the basic admission charge on Wednesdays and for all Illinois school groups, approximately 40 percent of those who visited The Field Museum since 1997 have gotten in free.



Even with the increase, our admission prices continue to be in line with those of other cultural activities. For example, admission to a movie, the Sears Tower Skydeck, the Art Institute of Chicago, or the IMAX Theater at Navy Pier all cost at least $8.

The admission increase will help to support the exciting new exhibits that the Museum has been developing in the last few years. For example, we have built a temporary exhibits program that will bring more than 10 special exhibits to Chicago in 2000. Many of these special exhibits, such as **Sounds from the Vaults** and **Masks: Faces of Culture**, are free with basic admission. We are also constantly improving and expanding our permanent exhibits. The opening of **Underground Adventure** and the upcoming unveiling of **Sue** are two high-profile examples of this work.

In addition to exhibits, admission revenue also helps support educational programs and a variety of other activities to serve our Chicago community.

Submitted by the Department of Marketing & Communications

FIELD NOTES

Week of February 28

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor East

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Museum Campus Operations Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m.

Public Events/Campus Events

An Evening with Anna Quindlen
- Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Ibeji International Women's Festival
- Saturday and Sunday

The **Natural News** is published every Friday and edited by Rodger Patience in the Development department. Send stories, artwork, ideas to patience@fmnh.org or call ext. 7286.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for each week's issue is Wednesday at noon.

Sue this week

Electrical and marble work will continue in Stanley Field Hall while the Sue space is prepared for the arrival of Sue, Phil Fraley and his magical mountmakers on April 4. Due to the grand nature of Sue, extensive work must be done so that the floor and electrical systems can support the needs of this special exhibit. The Sue corral should be relatively quiet for the next two weeks.

Sue Hendrickson's virtual field trip

Sue Hendrickson was here on Tuesday to participate in the Museum's second of three dinosaur electronic field trips that are delivered live to classrooms nationally via satellite and Apple Webcast. Accompanied by host Darin Croft and seven students who had joined the museum in an excavation of their own in September, Sue answered questions about the discovery of the Sue fossil as well as fossil hunting in general. During the program, Phil Fraley, chief mountmaker for the Sue project, answered questions via telephone about the mounting of Sue. The one-hour e-field trip also allowed students to explore the Fossil Prep Lab with Bill Simpson, Lisa Bergwall and Matthew Groves as their guides to the preparation and mold and casting processes. Sue Hendrickson is now on her way to the Philippines where she will begin uncovering a 600-year-old shipwreck. She will be back in town for the May 17 unveiling.

EDUCATION

Ibeji Women's Festival seeks volunteers

On Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, the Education Department will co-host the Ibeji International Women's Festival: Creation Stories & Dances of Women. The festival is being co-organized with the Ibeji Resource Center, a community organization. It will consist of a day-long Festival and a Conference (both on Saturday) and Saturday-Sunday Overnight. The Festival is free with admission. The Conference is $85 per person ($72 members), the Overnight is $55 per person ($46 members). The cost for both the Conference and Overnight is $140 ($118 members). Many volunteers are needed, so please call ext. 7509 for more information and to get involved.

Submitted by Randy Strickland

KUDOS

Music for Hall of Gems is a gem of its own

Producer/composer **Steve Villano**, an exhibit preparator here at The Field Museum, has enhanced the sonic atmosphere of the Museum's Grainger Hall of Gems. Using the gems themselves as inspiration, Steve worked with musicians **Carter O'Brian** (Geology), **Dirk Urban** and **John Zehren** (Exhibits) to build a facetted sound collage reflecting the mystery and beauty of these geological specimens. Please revisit the Gem Room soon.

Special thanks also go to **Lionel Dunn** (Protection Services) for his invaluable input.

Submitted by **Michael Burns**

AAM invites Jaci Gray to serve on national task force

Jaci Gray of the Museum's Center for Cultural Understanding and Change (CCUC) was selected to serve on the American Association of Museums' National Task Force on Museums and Community. She attended the first meeting of the group held in Washington D.C. February 17-19. This AAM initiative will launch a dialogue about how museums can respond to changes and opportunities within the varied "communities" we strive to serve, such as businesses, families, educational institutions and youth.

Jaci is one of two leaders in the Midwest region. Over the next few months, she will identify museum professionals and representatives of varying communities to participate in a regional discussion. The dialogue will provide workable definitions of best practice models and will present community needs that museums can use to enhance marketing efforts, program planning, funding requests, and community relationships.

Submitted by **Alaka Wali**

Unmasking the efforts of talented staff

Many thanks to all who worked to make the opening weekend programming for **Masks: Faces of Culture** such a success. Kudos are due to **Encarnacion Teruel** and **Bill Ryan** for making The Field Museum home to the kickoff of Redmoon Theater's 2000 season, to **Beth Crownover** and **Lauren Niimi** for the terrific mask-making creation stations, and to **Johanna Krynytzky** for a very well-attended lecture with "Masks" curators Cara McCarty and John Nunley.

Thanks also to **John Frazier** for bringing Redmoon's magic to Chicago schools all this week, and to **Danielle Kiefer** and **David Foster** in Exhibits for designing and reviewing the content of our printed materials.

Submitted by **Erica Kelly**

Letter commends Museum Store personnel

Just before Christmas and after a Bears game my family stopped at The Field Museum to browse through your store. We were pleasantly surprised not only at the eclectic cornucopia of gifts you had to offer, but also by your terrific staff. Though you were very busy, we were greeted by staff from the front to the back of the store.

We were extremely impressed by a particular staff member whose patience with us never ran out. **Renee** was able to juggle the five of us (adults) while answering the phones, helping other customers and employees without making us feel put off.

We spent a good hour and a half trying on and buying jewelry and picking out several pressed floral glass boxes, candles, Cartier book and jewelry. These Christmas gifts were a big hit with family and friends. You can believe we will be back soon.

Please make sure this letter makes its way to the appropriate people. You can be very proud of your employees!

The Donnelly and Meyering Families

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Office supplies available from Project Millennium

As Project Millennium officially comes to an end this month, we are "spring cleaning." We have office supplies and other "odds and ends" available to other departments within The Field Museum. Here is a sample list of what is available:

Stationery and envelopes (great for coloring and scrap paper)
File folders
Push pins
Clothes pins
Pocket folders
Report covers
Avery labels
Die-cut clouds (great as note-cards)
Banners

Plus more!

Stop by our office space in the fourth floor loft above Exhibits on Tuesday, February 29 or Wednesday, March 1 between noon and 2 p.m. Please call Laura Bales at ext. 7412 for more information.

Please help us keep an accurate count

The Public Services departments would like to request that staff and volunteers enter *and* exit the **Masks: Faces of Culture** exhibit through the entrance door only. This will allow the automatic counter at the exit door to count visitors only. We would also like volunteers and staff who are in the exhibit to encourage visitors to leave through the exit only. Thanks.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

January 2000

Levertia Short, Museum Store (15 years) • **Anita Purnell**, Visitor Services (10 years)
Ruben Villanueva, Engineering (10 years) • **Martina Hough** (Anthropology (10 years)
Jean Cattell, Exhibits (5 years) • **Robert Gray**, Protection Services (5 years)

February 2000

Gale Asikin, Vending (15 years) • **Tina Gulley-Augustus**, Protection Services (15 years)
Jannie Singleton, Housekeeping (10 years) • **David Mendez**, Exhibits (5 years)

March 2000

Lavida Rodgers, Housekeeping (15 years) • **Elizabeth Adams**, Education (5 years)
Susan Webb, Membership (5 years)

AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES

Audio-Visual Equipment List

All audio-visual equipment is available on a first-come basis to museum staff and for museum use only. If we do not have what you need, we can rent it at your department's cost. New equipment is added to our inventory continuously, so please contact us for more details or any questions at ext. 7915.

Video Equipment

Television/ Monitors	various 20", 27", 32" and 35"
12" tabletop TV/VCR combo	Panasonic
Laser-disc player	various
DVD player	Sony
Document projector	Elmo
Videotape players	¾" & ½"
Overhead projectors	various
Opaque projector	
LCD projectors	Sanyo for computer & video projection
Slide projectors	Kodak 35mm
Slide previewers	various
Film projectors	Kodak 16mm
Portable screens	various

Sound equipment

microphones/stands	Shure 58
wireless sound systems	Shure handheld/lapel
tape recorders	Marantz
compact disc players	various
mixers/amplifiers	various
portable sound systems	Liberty
portable podiums with sound systems	
portable intercom system	Clearcom

Other Equipment

Laser pointers
4 x 4 riser

James Simpson Theatre and Lecture Halls 1 and 2 have permanent sound systems. Classrooms A, B and C have permanent TV/VCR set-ups. Lecture halls and classrooms have slide projectors and screens.

Other areas that have A-V equipment

Founders' Room	sound system, 6 x 8 projection screen
Rice Hall	sound system, 9 x 12 projection screen
James Simpson Theater	sound system, 15 x 22 projection screen
Black Box Theater	*all a-v equipment to be brought in
Campaign Center	6 x 8 projection screen
Siragusa Center	sound system, 6 x 8 projection screen
Stanley Field Hall	sound system
Zoology Classroom	slide/projector and 6 x 6 screen

The Field Museum Presents

Voices from the Field Keynote Lecture Series

An Evening with

Anna Quindlen

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for commentary, Anna Quindlen has written for some of America's most influential newspapers and magazines. In addition, many of her novels have shot to the top of the fiction and non-fiction best-seller lists. A former columnist for *The New York Times* and, most recently, a columnist for *Newsweek*, Quindlen has written three critically acclaimed best-selling novels: *Object Lesson*, *One True Thing* and *Black and Blue*. *One True Thing* was made into a feature film starring Meryl Streep while the television debut of *Black and Blue* recently aired on CBS. Striking a delicate balance between national affairs and personal ones, Quindlen will discuss choices and change in the 21st century.

Staff/volunteers may call ext. 7400 for 2 free tickets

Additional Lectures in The Voices from the Field Series

Elaine Pagels & Michael Eric Dyson	*April 13; 6:30 p.m.*
Julie Taymor	*May 4; 6:30 p.m.*

Tuesday
February 29, 2000
6:00 p.m.

$18 general, $12 members, $15 students and educators

Call (312)665-7400 to reserve your tickets today!

The Field Museum salutes the people of Chicago for their long-standing, generous support of the Museum through the Chicago Park District.

This program is partially supported with funds from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

The Field Museum